

Message Text

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S E C R E T GENEVA 5851

EXDIS USSALTTWO

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMISSION OF SUBJECT AND REFERENCE
LINE

O 11652: ZGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: CORRECTION TO CABLE (SALT TWO-1283)

REFERENCE: SALT TWO -1282

SUBJECT: DDEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JULY 15, 1977 (SALT
TWO-1282)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JULY 15, 1977.

SEMENOV STATEMENT, JULY 15, 1977

IN THE COURSE OF THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS IT WAS SUGGESTED
HERE THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE RELEVANT ALREADY AGREED PROVI-
SIONS OF THE DRAFT, THE NUMERICAL VALUES OF MAXIMUM LEVELS

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FOR THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF LIGHT AND HEAVY
ICBMS BE RECORDED.

THE USSR DELEGATION DEALT WITH THIS QUESTION IN ITS
STATEMTN AT THE JUNE 24, 1977 MEETING.

IT FOLLOWS FROM THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HELD, INCLUDING THE U.S. DELEGATION'S STATEMENT AT THE JULY 1, 1977 MEETING, THAT THE SIDES HAVE THE SAME UNDERSTANDING OF WHICH SPECIFIC LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS WOULD HAVE THE GREATEST LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT RESPECTIVELY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

MOREOVER, AS A RESULT OF LENGTHY AND THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS, THE SIDES HAVE AGREED ON THE CONTENT OF AN AGREED STATEMENT AND A CORRESPONDING COMMON UNDERSTANDING, WHICH PROVIDE A CLEAR AND DETAILED DEFINITION OF THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF ICBMS.

GIVEN AGREEMENT IN THESE AREAS, THE SIDES ALSO COULD NOT FORM DIFFERING JUDGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTUAL VALUES OF THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF ICBMS, ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF DATA OBTAINED BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS.

THE SIDES KNOW THE VALUES OF THESE WEIGHTS AND ARE IN A POSITION ENABLING THEM TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS ON THE BASIS OF A LAUNCH-WEIGHT, AS WELL AS THROW-WEIGHT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLYING WITH THE RELEVANT LIMITATIONS BEING ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THOSE OF ARTICLE IV, PAR. 3-- NOT TO CONVERT LAUNCHERS FOR LIGHT ICBMS, OR FOR ICBMS OF OLDER TYPES DEPLOYED PRIOR TO
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1964, INTO LAUNCHERS FOR HEAVY ICBMS OF TYPES DEPLOYED AFTER THAT TIME.

THE SIDES HAVE ALSO REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE DEFINITION OF HEAVY ICBMS UNDER ARTICLE II, PAR. 6, AND ON A CORRESPONDING OBLIGATION NOT TO DEVELOP, TEST OR DEPLOY ICBMS WHICH HAVE A LAUNCH-WEIGHT GREATER OR A THROW-WEIGHT GREATER THAN THAT OF THE HEAVIEST IN TERMS OF LAUNCH-WEIGHT OR THROW-WEIGHT, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE HEAVY ICBMS DEPLOYED BY EITHER SIDE AS OF THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT.

THUS, THERE IS NO NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON NUMERICAL VALUES FOR THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF ICBMS, SINCE THE AGREED PROVISIONS
THE DRAFT
AGREEMENT CLEARLY SPECIFY THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE SIDES WITH REGARD TO LIMITING THESE WEIGHTS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE U.S. SIDE IS NEVERTHELESS RAISING THE QUESTION OF SPECIFYING THE VALUES OF THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE USSR DELEGATION IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS

TO PROPOSE THAT AS OF THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT
BEING WORKED OUT THE GREATEST LAUNCH-WEIGHTS AND THROW-WEIGHTS,
RESPECTIVELY, FOR LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS BE THOSE OF SOVIET
RS-18 AND RS-20 ICBMS.

THE SOVIET SIDE PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT THIS
ELIMINATES THE POSSIBLE CONCERN OF THE U.S. SIDE ON THE
QUESTION OF THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT FOR LIMITING
HEAVY AND LIGHT ICBMS.
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